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**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)**  
**OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

## ***Uganda – Complex Emergency***

Situation Report #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

September 7, 2007

*Note: The last situation report was dated July 5, 2007.*

### **BACKGROUND**

Since 1986, protracted conflict between the Government of Uganda (GOU) and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has created a complex humanitarian situation in northern Uganda, marked by violent attacks against civilians, extensive displacement, and the abduction of children for forced conscription, labor, and sexual servitude. According to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Working Group, as of June 2007, more than 900,000 people remained displaced in camps across northern Uganda, or half of the estimated 1.8 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) reported in December 2005. Since April 2007, ongoing peace negotiations between the GOU and LRA have significantly improved security in northern Uganda, encouraging IDPs to move closer to home villages or areas of origin. The IASC Working Group reported that more than 920,000 IDPs in northern Uganda have voluntarily left camps to resettle closer to or on their original lands. However, vulnerable populations continue to lack access to essential services in conflict-affected areas, particularly in Gulu, Amuru, Kitgum, and Pader districts.

On October 2, 2006, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Andrew G. Chritton reissued a disaster declaration in response to the ongoing humanitarian emergency in northern Uganda. In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$12.8 million to support humanitarian interventions in agriculture and food security; water, sanitation, and hygiene; humanitarian coordination and information management; protection; economy and market systems; and infrastructure rehabilitation. Since FY 2005, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$36.7 million to improve humanitarian conditions for conflict-affected populations and to help facilitate the resettlement process in Uganda. The U.S. Government (USG) continues to provide assistance to support the return of displaced populations, working to align and transition humanitarian activities to development interventions.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>		<b>SOURCE</b>
<b>IDPs Remaining in Original Camps</b>	916,000	IASC Working Group in Uganda – June 2007
<b>IDPs in New Site/In Transit</b>	381,000	IASC Working Group in Uganda – June 2007
<b>IDPs Returned to Villages of Origin</b>	539,550	IASC Working Group in Uganda – June 2007
<b>Refugees in Uganda<sup>1</sup></b>	220,914	U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – June 2007

### **FY 2007 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Uganda.....</b>	<b>\$12,769,680</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> Assistance to Uganda.....</b>	<b>\$44,383,700</b>
<b>State/PRM<sup>3</sup> Assistance to Uganda.....</b>	<b>\$7,829,937</b>
<b>Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Uganda.....</b>	<b>\$64,983,317</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

Since July 2007, the security situation in northern Uganda has remained relatively stable, with no reported incidents of aggression perpetrated by the LRA or the GOU. Due to increased security, most IDP camps and settlement areas remain accessible without restrictions, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Although improved security has enabled increased access to farmlands, flooding in northern and eastern Uganda has undermined second-season planting and damaged roads and bridges, hampering efforts of IDPs to move closer to their farmlands. In late August, two teams led by U.N. agencies and the Ugandan Red Cross Society, in

conjunction with the GOU's Disaster Management Office, assessed the impact of the floods in Teso and Mbale regions, focusing on health, food security, shelter, road conditions, and water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.

In mid-August, the Department of State's Bureau of African Affairs Senior Advisor on Conflict Resolution Timothy Shortley traveled to northern Uganda to discuss with local leaders and affected populations the peace process in Southern Sudan, the dignified return of displaced populations, and ongoing reconciliation and recovery efforts. In early September, the Senior Advisor

<sup>1</sup> Refugees in Uganda comprise 167,386 Sudanese, 28,184 Congolese, 19,519 Rwandans, and 5,825 others.

<sup>2</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

accompanied Jendayi Frazer, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, to Uganda to discuss the peace process, as well as the current situation impacting IDPs.

### ***IDP Movement and Return***

Despite the adverse impact of localized flooding, enhanced security and greater freedom of movement have spurred continued IDP movement out of camps toward original lands throughout the Acholi and Lango sub-regions. As of June 2007, nearly 540,000 IDPs had returned to home villages, and approximately 381,000 others had voluntarily left camps to resettle in new sites or move closer to areas of origin, according to the IASC Working Group in Uganda. In addition, UNHCR anticipates a considerable increase in IDP returns if peace negotiations make further progress. According to a June 2007 briefing paper by the Refugee Law Project, as well as field assessments by USAID's northern Uganda advisor, it is likely that IDP returns will increase significantly in November and December 2007, as grasses mature and roof thatching materials become available.

In July and August 2007, ongoing peace talks between the GOU and the LRA further improved the security environment for IDPs in northern Uganda, triggering additional returns. However, humanitarian needs in return areas remain, particularly for basic services such as safe drinking water, health care, and education, as well as the opening of secondary roads. The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) supports both health interventions and education programs in IDP camps and in return and resettlement areas, providing longer term aid to conflict-affected populations. Focusing on immediate, live-saving assistance, USAID/OFDA continues to facilitate the return process in northern Uganda through programs that increase access to clean water and improve livelihoods through agriculture.

USAID/OFDA is working closely with USAID/Uganda to identify and fill gaps in services, particularly those that will hinder returns. In addition, USAID/OFDA expanded programs in FY 2007, which include support for radio programming to increase information about return conditions and available assistance; land tillage to increase land area for cultivation; road rehabilitation to increase access to markets and areas of return for both returnees and police; livelihoods assistance including income generating activities for returnees; and rehabilitation of water points in return areas.

In FY 2007, State/PRM provided more than \$7.8 million to support the humanitarian needs of refugees and victims of conflict in Uganda. State/PRM-supported refugee assistance efforts included protection, health, water and sanitation, gender-based violence prevention and response activities, HIV/AIDS prevention activities, and an urban refugee project in Kampala District, as well as a program to combat trafficking in persons.

### ***Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene***

Access to water, sanitation, and hygiene remains a significant concern across the Acholi and Lango sub-regions. IDPs have cited water availability in areas of origin as a prominent factor influencing returns to home villages. As of August 2007, humanitarian partners have increased the supply of potable water to IDP camps by 50 percent, according to OCHA.

As the continued movement of IDPs has reduced overcrowding in many camps, USAID/OFDA has prioritized improving water, sanitation, and hygiene in return areas, particularly in Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader districts. In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA supported seven implementing partners for humanitarian interventions in water, sanitation, and hygiene, assisting more than 570,000 beneficiaries in northern Uganda.

USAID/OFDA programs increase access to water through the rehabilitation of springs and hand dug wells, increase the daily water supply in IDP camps, expand public health and hygiene education, and improve access to sanitation facilities. Additional program activities include drilling and rehabilitating boreholes, installing water tanks and taps, constructing latrines and hand washing facilities, and distributing hygiene kits. For example, USAID/OFDA supports the International Rescue Committee's (IRC) water, sanitation, and hygiene programs aimed at reducing the incidence of waterborne disease in Kitgum District, benefiting more than 66,300 people both in camps and resettlement areas. Through Action Against Hunger (AAH/USA), USAID/OFDA has allocated funding to help reduce the risk of water- and sanitation-related diseases for IDP and returnee populations in Gulu District, assisting more than 66,000 beneficiaries.

### ***Agriculture and Food Security***

Due to gradual increases in food production and improved harvests, food security is strengthening in northern and northeastern Uganda. However, as of August 2007, approximately 2.1 million people remained food insecure, and IDPs depended on food aid for nearly 50 percent of their humanitarian needs, according to USAID's Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Although IDPs have increased access to agricultural land to cultivate crops, a delayed onset of the rains in April and May followed by sporadic rains and flooding have caused harvests to falter in July, hampering independent food production and an overall return to food security.

In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA supported five implementing partners for humanitarian interventions in agriculture and food security, assisting nearly 800,000 beneficiaries in northern Uganda. In an effort to generate greater food security for IDP and returnee populations, USAID/OFDA partners have distributed seeds and tools and supported local seed systems.

To improve food production and farming technologies, USAID/OFDA partners are providing seeds, tools, training, and other agricultural inputs to populations vulnerable to food insecurity. In addition, USAID/OFDA programs aim to diversify crop production through cash crops, which allow households to generate income. To help re-establish production and farming systems in areas of origin, USAID/OFDA is supporting the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to provide agricultural inputs to approximately 480,000 IDPs in the Acholi sub-region, as well as distribute starter kits to returnees, working to strengthen food security and stimulate the early recovery process in northern Uganda.

In FY 2007, USAID/FFP provided more than 64,000 metric tons (MT) of emergency food assistance valued at nearly \$44.4 million, including distributions targeting 270,000 returnees in Gulu, Lira, and Pader districts in June and July 2007. Distributed through the U.N. World

Food Program (WFP), USAID/FFP assistance consisted of beans, cornmeal, corn-soya blend, peas, sorghum, and vegetable oil. To support the return process, USAID/FFP resettlement packages also provided three-month rations to IDPs identified as ready to return home.

### ***Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management***

As relief work in northern Uganda gradually transitions to development programs, humanitarian coordination and information management remain vital building blocks for the delivery of international assistance. USAID/OFDA supports activities to strengthen the coordination and information management infrastructure of the international humanitarian community as a whole. Through OCHA, USAID/OFDA has provided funding to enhance international and local coordination mechanisms, as well as information dissemination, throughout northern Uganda.

## **USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA**

<b><i>Implementing Partner</i></b>	<b><i>Activity</i></b>	<b><i>Location</i></b>	<b><i>Amount</i></b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
AAH/USA	Agriculture and Food Security; Economy and Market Systems; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Gulu District	\$998,000
Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale (AVSI)	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader Districts	\$1,284,511
Cooperazione e Sviluppo Onlus (CESVI)	Economy and Market Systems; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Pader District	\$786,464
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Agriculture and Food Security	Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader Districts	\$1,424,580
Food for the Hungry (FHI)	Agriculture and Food Security; Economy and Market Systems; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Pader District	\$1,348,614
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Northern Uganda	\$1,800,000
IRC	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Kitgum District	\$794,358
Lutheran World Relief (LWR)	Administrative Support	Kitgum District	\$5,115
MEDAIR	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Pader District	\$998,425
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security; Economy and Market Systems; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Pader District	\$1,620,186
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Northern Uganda	\$699,000
UNHCR	Logistics	Gulu District	\$313,224
UNICEF	Protection	Northern Uganda	\$200,000
USAID/Uganda	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Northern Uganda	\$100,000
	Program Support Costs, including the Gulu Office	Northern Uganda	\$397,203
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$12,769,680</b>

<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
WFP	64,210 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Northern and Eastern Uganda	\$44,383,700
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$44,383,700</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
InterAid	Urban Refugee Project	Kampala District	\$20,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	HIV/AIDS Prevention and Response (PEPFAR); Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response	Kyenjojo District	\$694,953
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Return and Reintegration Assistance to Congolese trafficking victims in Uganda	Countrywide	\$380,000
IRC	HIV/AIDS Prevention and Response (PEPFAR); Multi-Sector Activities	Masindi and Yumbe Districts	\$1,374,984
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance/Protection; IDP Assistance/Protection	Countrywide; Northern Uganda	\$3,960,000
WFP	Immediate Food Pipeline Gaps for Refugees in Uganda	Countrywide	\$1,400,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$7,829,937</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA IN FY 2007</b>			<b>\$64,983,317</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 7, 2007. USAID/OFDA has committed the majority of FY 2007 funding to Uganda between July 5, 2007 and September 1, 2007, as most grants awarded to implementing partners in FY 2006 expired between those months.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.



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